

**TOP SECRET**

31 January 1967

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Deputy Director for Intelligence  
**SUBJECT :** Estimates of Casualties in North Vietnam

1. This memorandum is for your information and summarizes the casualty estimates from air attack in North Vietnam.

2. There are four key documents which contain the estimates of casualties from the air campaigns. The basic document is The Effectiveness of the Air Campaigns Against North Vietnam, 1 January - 30 September 1966. This is the so-called McNamee III report. On page 14 it gave the following table:

	<u>1965</u>	<u>Jan-Sept 1966</u>	<u>Total</u>
Civilians	6,000	11,900	17,900
Attacks on Fixed targets	2,000	700	2,700
Attacks on armed recon- naissance missions	4,000	11,200	15,200
 Military	 7,200	 3,800	 11,000
Attacks on fixed targets	4,300	400	4,700
Attacks on armed recon- naissance missions	2,900	3,400	6,300
 <b>TOTAL</b>	 <u>13,200</u>	 <u>15,700</u>	 <u>28,900</u>

3. The three other key documents which draw on these figures are: (1) Memorandum for the President, dated 16 January 1967, subject: Bombing Casualties in North Vietnam; (2) the follow-up to Senator Russell from the January briefing, "Selected Data on Vietnam" - Casualties in North Vietnam, dated 10 January 1967; (3) the memorandum to be released by Defense or State -- uncertain as to which as of today -- on the casualty numbers.

TOP SECRET 192859  
 Cy 5 of 6 cyr  
 Page 1 of 3 pgs.

**TOP SECRET**

~~TOP SECRET~~

3. All of these four documents are consistent since the latter three draw exclusively on the first. All of these estimates are CIA produced.

4. The so-called McNamara IV, entitled, The Rolling Thunder Program -- Present and Potential Target Systems, dated January 1967, updates the casualty figures through the end of 1966. It is, so far, the only document which does so. On page 4 it contains the following table:

Estimated Casualties from Rolling Thunder  
1965-66

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966<sup>a/</sup></u>	<u>Total</u>
Civilians	<u>6,000</u>	<u>17,900 to 20,200</u>	<u>23,900 to 26,200</u>
Fixed targets	2,000	900	<u>2,900</u>
Armed reconnaissance	4,000	17,000 to 19,300	<u>21,000 to 23,300</u>
Military	<u>1,200</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>11,850</u>
Fixed targets	4,300	400	<u>4,700</u>
Armed reconnaissance	2,900	4,250	<u>7,150</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>13,200</u></b>	<b><u>22,550 to 24,850</u></b>	<b><u>35,750 to 36,050</u></b>

a/ Preliminary estimates.

5. You will note that the casualty figures for 1965 are identical in both tables. The full year 1966 figures are labeled preliminary because a range has been introduced on civilian casualties from armed reconnaissance. The lower end of the range, 17,000 has been derived by the same methodology used previously in all reports. The upper end of the range is weighted by a new factor -- tons of ordinance dropped. We are not certain that this method yields a more accurate result; it is still being discussed with DIA analysts. Hence, we called 1966 preliminary and showed the results of both methods. Our best estimate is that the old method (lower end of range) will prevail, but we'd like to carry on the discussions briefly.

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET 192959  
Q 5 of 6 pgs.  
Page 2 of 3 pgs.

6. You will note that the methodology question concerns only civilian armed reconnaissance casualties. Civilian casualties from strikes on fixed targets and military casualties from all causes rest on other methodologies and are not in question.



25X1A

Deputy Director  
Research and Reports

Distribution:

Cys 1 & 2 - DD/  
cys 3 & 4 - OD/ORR  
cy 5 - CH/D/T  
cy 6 - CH/E

OD/ORR: [REDACTED] mb/5001 (31 Jan 67) 25X1A

RET

**TOP SECRET**

Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA RDP78S02149R000200080010-0  
UNCLASSIFIED when blank. Top SECRET when attached to Top Secret Document. Automatically downgraded to SECRET when filled in form is detached from controlled document.

**CONTROL AND COVER SHEET FOR TOP SECRET DOCUMENT**

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION		REGISTRY
SOURCE	OD/ORR	CIA CONTROL NO.
DOC. NO.	192859	192859
DOC. DATE	31 Jan 67	DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED
COPY NO.	5	LOGGED BY
NUMBER OF PAGES	3	
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS	None	

**ATTENTION:** This form will be placed on top of and attached to each Top Secret document received by the Central Intelligence Agency or classified Top Secret within the CIA and will remain attached to the document until such time as it is downgraded, destroyed, or transmitted outside of CIA. Access to Top Secret matter is limited to Top Secret Control personnel and those individuals whose official duties relate to the matter. Top Secret Control Officers who receive and/or release the attached Top Secret material will sign this form and indicate period of custody in the left-hand columns provided. Each individual who sees the Top Secret document will sign and indicate the date of handling in the right-hand column.

**NOTICE OF DETACHMENT:** When this form is detached from Top Secret material it shall be completed in the appropriate spaces below and transmitted to Central Top Secret Control for record.

DOWNGRADED		DESTROYED		DISPATCHED (OUTSIDE CIA)	
TO		BY (Signature)		TO	
BY (Signature)		WITNESSED BY (Signature)		BY (Signature)	
OFFICE	DATE	OFFICE	DATE	OFFICE	DATE